

## **ABSTRACT**

Results of four environmental studies undertaken to help recreate the landscape inhabited by prehistoric people along the State Route 1 corridor are presented. The paleoenvironmental and geological studies were conducted at key locations adjacent to significant archaeological sites that will be impacted by highway construction. The introduction reviews the methods used in the studies and provides the regional paleoenvironmental context. Pollen and hydrological studies of bay/basin ponds show that climate was extremely dry in central Delaware between approximately 11,000 and 6000 years ago. Geological investigations of wetlands in streams valleys adjacent to archaeological sites show the impacts of changing stream flow and relative sea-level rise on wetland environments. Analysis of the pollen and seed contents of cores taken in the wetlands show changes in local environments, climate, and potential food resources. The conclusions discuss the implications of the studies for interpreting how people lived in central Delaware in prehistoric times.